

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

January 24, 1995

STATEMENT BY THE PRESS SECRETARY

President Clinton Takes New Action Against Terrorist Groups that Threaten the Middle East Peace Process

President Clinton signed an Executive order on Monday, January 23 blocking assets in the United States of terrorist organizations that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process and prohibiting financial transactions with these groups. The horrifying suicide bombing in Israel on Sunday is the latest example of the determination of extremists to destroy the hopes of peaceful coexistence between Arabs and Israelis by the killing of innocents. As the President has stated repeatedly, "they cannot succeed, they will not succeed, they must not succeed."

The President's action, which took effect at 12:01 this morning, provides the Administration with a new tool to combat fundraising in this country on behalf of organizations that use terror to undermine the Middle East peace process. The Executive order makes it harder for such groups to finance these criminal activities by cutting off their access to sources of support in the U.S. and to the U.S. financial system. It is also intended to reach charitable contributions to designated organizations to preclude diversion of such donations to terrorist activities. These measures are being taken under the authority of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act. The Administration will encourage other nations to take similar actions.

In addition, the President will soon send to the Congress new comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation that would strengthen our ability to prevent terrorist acts, identify those who carry them out and bring them to justice. The combination of these two initiatives is intended to demonstrate U.S. determination to confront and combat those who would seek to destroy the Middle East peace process, as well as our commitment to the global fight against terrorism.

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GOVERNMENT
EXHIBIT
OFAC-4
3:04-CR-240-P
U.S. v. HLF, et al.

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FACT SHEET:

**EXECUTIVE ORDER on TRANSACTIONS WITH TERRORISTS
WHO THREATEN TO DISRUPT THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS**

- The Executive Order issued under Presidential authority contained in the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, blocks property within the jurisdiction of the United States of designated foreign persons or organizations that threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process.
- The Order also prohibits and transfers by U.S. persons to the designated persons or organizations, including charitable contributions of funds, goods, or services.
- Twelve foreign organizations are named in the Executive Order. In addition, the Treasury Department has designated 18 foreign persons and has provided a number of pseudonyms used by the organizations and individuals designated. All of these specially designated terrorists are subject to the freeze and transfer prohibitions. Included in the list are 35 variants of the names of these organizations and foreign persons. Additional organizations or variant names may be added in the future.
- This action is undertaken in response to recurrent acts of international terrorism which threaten the Middle East peace process, such as the bomb attack in Beit Lid over the weekend, recent bus bombings in Israel, as well as earlier threats against and attacks on Palestinian and Egyptian authorities, and bombings in Buenos Aires and London.
- As an element in our Counterterrorism efforts, these new measures will add to the arsenal of weapons available to U.S. law enforcement agencies to combat potential funding of these organizations from U.S. sources.
- These measures are intended to deny terrorist groups that threaten the peace process access to the U.S. financial system by freezing any of their funds within U.S. jurisdiction.
- These measures are also intended to preclude diversion of charitable contributions to fund terrorism activities by prohibiting the transfer of funds by U.S. persons to these groups.

- Although we recognize that these groups receive most of their financial support from sources outside the United States, we hope these measures will discourage all donors from contribution to groups that use violence to oppose the peace process. We hope our actions will serve to encourage similar action by other nations.

- The President will soon send to Congress comprehensive anti-terrorism legislation which would strengthen our ability to prevent terrorist acts, identify those who perpetrate such violent acts, and bring them to justice.

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